

The Life
of
George Whitefield

by JR Andrews

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Preface to the Fourth Edition

A FOURTH EDITION of the “Life of George Whitefield” having been called for, the Author takes the opportunity of expressing his thankfulness at the increasing interest which is beginning to be felt in the life and labours of this faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In an unflagging zeal for his Master’s service, a total abnegation of self, and a deep, lasting, life-long love for the spiritual welfare of immortal souls, the subject of this memoir has never in modern times been excelled. Throughout the whole range of Christian biography few characters are to be met with better worth the study and imitation of those persons who desire to preach Christ crucified, than that of George Whitefield.

J. R. A.

JANUARY, 1879.

THE LIFE OF GEORGE WHITEFIELD

ORIGINAL PREFACE

NEARLY a century has elapsed since the death of Whitefield; and with the exception of a life written by Dr Philip, published upwards of a quarter of a century ago, no biography has appeared of this great preacher since the one by Dr Gillies, which was published two years after Whitefield's death.

Without desiring for a moment to detract from Dr Philip's work, I am nevertheless persuaded that a narrative written in a popular style, free from digressions as much as possible, unencumbered by extraneous matter, or the author's own views and aspirations; exhibiting, in short, Whitefield in his inner life, just as he was, in all the simplicity and freshness of his character, is a desideratum.

In the following pages I have endeavoured to bring before the reader all the information obtainable from contemporaneous and subsequent history, largely availing myself of Whitefield's letters, diaries, and journals, and permitting him on all occasions, when practicable, to speak for himself. If some may think I have tracked his footsteps too minutely, it will not have been in vain if in so doing I have succeeded in making this remarkable man better known and appreciated than he has ever yet been, even at the risk of being considered common-place and matter-of-fact in the execution of my task.

In the compilation of these pages the following works have been consulted:—"Memoirs of the Rev. George Whitefield," by John Gillies, D.D.; London, 1772. "The Works of George Whitefield," 6 vols.; London, 1771. "Whitefield's Life and Times," by Robert Philip, D.D.; London 1837. "Gillies' Historical Collection," Glasgow, 1754. "Prince's Chronology;" Boston, 1752. "Prince's Church History." "Memoirs of George Whitefield," by Cornelius Winter. "Nowell's Life of George

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